L8: Entry 1 of 4 File: USPT Mar 6, 2001

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6199076 B1
TITLE: Audio program player including a dynamic program selection controller

Detailed Description Text (4):
The player 103 may be advantageously implemented by a conventional laptop or desktop personal computer including a processor (the client CPU 105), a time of day clock 106, and a data storage system consisting of both high speed RAM storage and a persistent mass storage device, such as a magnetic disk memory, the data storage system being used for storing audio, text and image data at 107 and for storing usage data at 109 which records the nature of the programming reproduced by the player 103. The player 103 further includes a sound card 110 which receives audio input from a microphone input device 111 for accepting voice dictation and commands from a user and which delivers audio output to a speaker 113 in order to supply audio information to the user. The program data stored at 107 may advantageously include compressed audio recordings and/or text (files of characters) which may be converted into audio form by conventional speech synthesis programs executed by the client CPU 105.

Detailed Description Text (17):
The host server 101 periodically transmits a download compilation file 145 upon receiving a request from the player 103. The file 145 is placed in a predetermined FTP download file directory and assigned a filename known to the player 103. At a time determined by player 103 monitoring the time of day clock 106, a dial up connection is established via the service provider 121 and the Internet to the FTP server 125 and the download compilation 145 is transferred to the program data store 107 in the player 103. The compilation 145 is previously written to the download directory by a download processing mechanism seen at 151 in the server 101. Download processing, as described in more detail later, extracts from the library 130 data defining compressed program, advertising, and glue segments, and/or associated text program data, based on selections and preferences made by (or inferred for) the user as specified in the subscriber data and usage log database 143.

Detailed Description Text (21):
It should be understood that numerous other information storage, processing and communications schemes may be substituted for the preferred Internet server and PC client player architecture shown in FIG. 1. A dedicated host computer which communicates directly with client stations via dial up telephone facilities may be used, and cellular radio, cable modem and satellite links may be used to provide data communications in lieu of the conventional SLIP/PPP telephone and Internet links shown in FIG. 1. To facilitate use of the system in an automobile, a "player" computer may be linked to the Internet via a local communications server computer via a radio or infrared link when the car is parked at the subscriber's home or office. The Infrared Data Association's (IrDA) wireless infrared (IR) standard provides a highly effective, low-cost communications pathway rapidly becoming a standard feature in all notebook computers and PDAs. The IrDA international standard provides interoperability among widely diverse systems, involves no governmental regulation, are provided at low cost, provide high speed file transfers (e.g., 4 Mbs data rates), are small and can be easily incorporated into portable computers of the type which may be used in a car or on public

transportation. Alternatively, the files downloaded from the host may be stored on a replaceable media, such as an optical disk cartridge, which may then be inserted into a portable computer or simplified player for mobile use. A direct link between a mobile client player (such as a laptop PC) may be implemented using the Cellular Digital Packet Data (CDPD) service presently available in major metropolitan areas to provide low-cost access to the Internet using the TCP/IP protocol, and provides the advantage that needed program segments can be downloaded while a session is in progress, eliminating the need for a complete download before the mobile unit is disconnected from its data source.

Detailed Description Text (35):
In addition, the subscriber may request and be presented with an HTML form which lists available programs in a particular selected subject matter area, with a priority weighting factor pre-assigned to each in accordance with the subscriber's previous specification for that category. The form presented thus reflects the previously entered level of interest weighting factor for each program based on its subject matter category, but permits the subscriber to override the suggested default value on a program by program basis. Similarly, the subscriber is given the opportunity to override the default amount of advertising desired.

Detailed Description Text (213):
Comments are designated as being public or private messages. Public comments become independently available to all subscribers who have indicated an interest in the subject matter category(s) to which the comment relates. By default, a comment is assumed to relate to the same categories assigned to the program segment which was playing when the comment was produced, but these category codes may be changed by the user during the editing session (seen at 217 in FIG. 2). In addition to altering the subject matter codes for comments already dictated, the editing capabilities made available to the user at step 217 may advantageously include the ability to delete dictated comments so that they are not uploaded at all, direct comments to specific subscribers or email addresses, and enter new comments on any designated program segment in the current catalog by dictation or keyboarding.

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